

Influenza Activity

- Throughout the United States, influenza activity occurred at low levels from October through December.
- There was an increase in January and February.
- We finally peaked in mid-March.

What viruses were circulating?

- Influenza A (H3N2) predominated overall.
- Influenza A (H1N1) 2009 and influenza B also circulated widely.
- From October 2, 2011 May 19, 2012, World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories in the United States tested 169, 453 specimens for influenza viruses.

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- A total of 22,417 were positive. This is about 13%.
- Of those positive specimens, 19,285 (86%) were influenza A viruses,
- Only 3,132 (14%) were influenza B viruses.
- Among the influenza A viruses, 14,968 (78%) were subtyped.
- Influenza A (H3N2) viruses: 11,002
- Influenza A (pH1N1) viruses: 3,966

Influenza Associated Pediatric Deaths

- There were 26 lab confirmed influenza associated pediatric deaths reported.
- Reported from 15 states: Arkansas (1), Arizona (1), California (6), Florida (2), Hawaii (1), Missouri (1), North Carolina (2), New Jersey (1), Nevada (3), New York (1), Oklahoma (1), Texas (3), Virginia (1), Washington (1), and Wisconsin (1).

What about KENTUCKY?

- Influenza activity levels range from No activity to Widespread. Kentucky identified with every level this season. Our activity level was widespread for five weeks (weeks 10 – 14).
- There were also a total of 9 influenza outbreaks in institutions reported to us.
- An outbreak in an institution is defined as two or more ill residents.

How is the activity level determined?

- The data from lab confirmed cases, surveillance sites, and local health departments is analyzed to make this determination. Kentucky's influenza activity level is then reported, weekly, to CDC.
- This data does not only include lab confirmed cases, but influenza like illness (ILI), and school absences related to illness. ILI is defined as a fever ≥ 100.0 AND cough and/or sore throat (in the absence of a known cause other than influenza).

What's new for 2012-2013?

• The FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee recommended that the 2012-2013 trivalent influenza vaccine for the US contain A/California/7/2009-like (pH1N1), A/Victoria/361/2011 –like (H3N2), and B/Wisconsin/1/2010-like (B/Yamagata lineage). This is a change from the influenza A (H3N2) and influenza B components for 2011-2012 Northern Hemisphere influenza vaccine formulation.

How was this change determined?

 This recommendation was based on global influenza virus surveillance data related to epidemiology and antigenic characteristics, serologic responses to 2011-12 trivalent seasonal vaccines, and the availability of candidate strains and reagents.